

## CLAIMS

1. A subcutaneous insertion device comprising:  
a needle comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end; and  
an insulator covering at least a portion of the shaft;  
5                    wherein the first end of the needle is exposed and is  
                     configured for subcutaneous insertion into a patient; and  
                     wherein an exterior surface of the insulator provides an  
                     outermost surface of the shaft.
- 10            2. The invention of claim 1 wherein the first end of the needle has  
a length comprising from about one to about twenty percent of the needle.
3. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a conductor coupled  
to an exposed surface of the needle.
- 15            4. The invention of claim 3 wherein the conductor contacts at least  
a portion of the second end of the needle.
5. The invention of claim 1 wherein the insulator comprises a  
20            biocompatible coating.
6. The invention of claim 5 wherein the coating is selected from the  
group consisting of an epoxy resin, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and  
combinations thereof.
- 25            7. The invention of claim 1 wherein the needle is solid.
8. The invention of claim 1 wherein the needle is hollow.
- 30            9. A method of stimulating a subcutaneous region of a patient  
comprising:

inserting at least a portion of a first subcutaneous insertion device into the patient; and  
manipulating the first subcutaneous insertion device, thereby stimulating the subcutaneous region;

5                    wherein the first subcutaneous insertion device comprises:

                    a needle comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end; and

10                   an insulator covering at least a portion of the shaft; wherein the first end of the needle is exposed and wherein at least a portion of the first end is inserted into the patient; and

                    wherein an exterior surface of the insulator provides an outermost surface of the shaft.

15

10.    The invention of claim 9 wherein the manipulating comprises twisting the first subcutaneous insertion device.

20                   11.    The invention of claim 9 wherein the manipulating comprises vibrating the first subcutaneous insertion device.

12.    The invention of claim 9 wherein the manipulating comprises heating at least a portion of the first subcutaneous insertion device.

25                   13.    The invention of claim 9 wherein the insulator comprises a biocompatible coating.

30                   14.    The invention of claim 13 wherein the first subcutaneous insertion device further comprises a conductor coupled to an exposed surface of the needle.

15. The invention of claim 14 wherein the conductor contacts at least a portion of the second end of the needle.

16. The invention of claim 15 wherein the manipulating comprises  
5 connecting the conductor to a remote electrical source, such that an electrical impulse may be transferred from the remote electrical source to the first end of the needle.

17. The invention of claim 9 wherein the first subcutaneous insertion  
10 device is inserted at an acupoint of the patient.

18. The invention of claim 9 wherein the method is used to treat a malady selected from the group consisting of pain, headaches, asthma, nausea, depression, alcohol addiction, drug addiction, nicotine addiction,  
15 obesity, arthritis, premenstrual syndrome, fibromyalgia, paralysis, carpal tunnel syndrome, morning sickness, labor pain, schizophrenia, allergy, menopause, infertility, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and combinations thereof.

20 19. The invention of claim 9 wherein the first subcutaneous insertion device is inserted into the patient at an angle of between about 15 and about 90 degrees relative to a surface of skin.

20. The invention of claim 9 wherein all of the first end is inserted  
25 into the patient.

21. A method of stimulating a subcutaneous region of a patient comprising:  
inserting at least a portion of a first subcutaneous insertion  
30 device into the patient at a first acupoint;  
inserting at least a portion of a second subcutaneous insertion device into the patient at a second acupoint; and

manipulating at least one of the first and second subcutaneous insertion devices, thereby stimulating a subcutaneous region;

wherein each of the first and the second subcutaneous insertion devices comprises:

- 5                   a needle comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end;
- an insulator covering at least a portion of the shaft;
- and
- a conductor coupled to an exposed surface of the
- 10                  needle;
- wherein the first end of the needle is exposed and wherein at least a portion of the first end is inserted into the patient; and
- wherein an exterior surface of the insulator
- 15                  provides an outermost surface of the shaft.

22.    The invention of claim 21 wherein the manipulating comprises connecting the conductors of the first and the second subcutaneous insertion devices to a remote electrical source and transferring an electrical impulse

20    from the remote electrical source to the first end of at least one of the first and the second subcutaneous insertion devices.

23.    The invention of claim 21 wherein all of the first end is inserted into the patient.

25

24.    The invention of claim 21 wherein the method is used to treat a malady selected from the group consisting of pain, headaches, asthma, nausea, depression, alcohol addiction, drug addiction, nicotine addiction, obesity, arthritis, premenstrual syndrome, fibromyalgia, paralysis, carpal

30    tunnel syndrome, morning sickness, labor pain, schizophrenia, allergy, menopause, infertility, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and combinations thereof.